

The Ghouls of Finance

The Dying President--Lawson Attracts Attention of Revolutionists Across the Sea.

When Trust magnates fall out honest men get information. But for the feud between Standard Oil on the one hand, and Pierpont Morgan and Lawson, one-time "Copper King," on the other hand, we should never have been favoured with the revelations as to Insurance Corporation methods. The same feud is responsible for Lawson's exposure of the copper deals which ruined him and put hundreds of millions into the Standard Oil coffers. One can hardly be surprised at any methods adopted by the Rockefeller group, but Lawson's latest story in "Everybody's Magazine" is one to which Thackeray's mordant pen might have done full justice.

When the news of the murderous attack on President McKinley was flashed through the states, the oil trust magnates foresaw that with his death would come a heavy fall in securities. They stood to lose millions in Amalgamated Copper. Lawson alleges that they thereupon placed around the bedside of the dying man influential emissaries of their own, whose business it was to issue news that the president was

sure to recover. Under the influence of this news the markets picked up again, and Standard Oil unloaded its shares safely before the President's death came about. Subsequently, with the assistance of Standard Oil manipulations, the fall in Amalgamated Coppers was such that, in these shares alone, some 150 million were lost—including 12 millions lost by Lawson—and presumably the whole amount was pocketed by the Rockefeller group. They offered to recoup Lawson for his own losses, naively pointing out if they hadn't deceived him he might have given them away and spoiled their operations!

It is a charming story, and makes one wonder more than ever who inspired that brilliant idea of burning up the Russian oil springs. The next time Mr. Balfour is arguing, as he so powerfully did at Newcastle in favor of protection as the best means of developing the badly-needed trust system in this country, some one might hand him a copy of "Everybody's Magazine," with the story of the ghouls of finance at the dying Presidents bedside.—London Labour Leader.

MURRAY E. KING ON RUSSIAN AFFAIR

Below we print an extract from a letter from one of the ablest American comrades:

Isn't it good to be alive nowadays with the unmistakable portents of revolution and vast hopes "shaking the world"? I am so absorbed in the tremendous Russian upheaval that I can scarcely wait for the papers from one day to another. We socialists have at last, through the desperate valor and might of the Russian proletariat, thrust ourselves to the very front of the world's stage.

Every paper and magazine is at last forced to mouth over and over again the dread, hated word, "socialist." The terminology of our philosophy is becoming the current language of the day. Our view is becoming palpably the viewpoint of humanity. The fight is on; we will never recede from our position. Long live the Russian proletariat who have thrust us to the front in the affairs of the world.

MURRAY E. KING.

VIOLENCE YOU DON'T READ ABOUT IN THE DAILY PAPERS

You often hear people say they believe in unions and would give their support to the labor movement if it were not for the "violence" connected with the trade-union movement. This idea of violence they get from the daily press accounts of strikes in large cities, where mobs of irresponsible rowdies and thugs congregate during labor troubles and improve the opportunity to get even with the police. It is conceded by fair-minded men that not one-tenth of the violence connected with strikes is attributable to the strikers. Mr. August Belmont recently made the statement that, in justice to the labor unions, he wished to say that of the score of men arrested for rioting in connection with the recent Interboro strike in the city of New York, not a single one was a member of the Street Railway Employee's union.

The press of the country is quick to seize on and magnify any incident that can possibly be construed into a story of violence on the part of the unions. On the other hand, do you ever see such heads as these in the daily papers: "Fifty Women Died of Hunger as a Result of Starvation Wages in New York Sweatshops," or, "One Hundred Girls Driven to Suicide This Year Because of Low Wages in Department Stores," or, "A Hundred Children Murdered by the Cotton Mills of the South." No, you never see such heads in the newspapers, but all the same this sort of violence is going on all the time—violence sanctioned by the sacred "business interests." If you kill a man, you commit murder; it matters not whether you do it with a club or by the kid glove method preferred by the "business interests."—Typographical Journal.

CHILD SUICIDES FROM OVERWORK

May Beals Reproves Wealthy Church for Its Heartlessness—Asks Congregation If Christ Would Have Spent Millions for Luxurious Churches.

We print the following letter from May Beals in regard to her cotton mill story:

Dear Comrade: Please tell them in a footnote to my story, or an editorial or something, that the number of child suicides is increasing all the time. In France in 1901 there were four hundred and seven-six children who committed suicide. All the cases recorded were among the poor. I haven't been able to find the United States statistics on the subject. I don't think any record is kept separate from adult cases, for I wrote to a friend in Washington who has exceptional facilities for finding out things.

Notice that it is "poor children"—the disinherited—who have no share in the earth, who take themselves out of it. Some good people say that the rapid increase in France is due to the spread of free thought—the decay of religion.

If the function of religion is to hold children in a life of torment, that nothing else can force them to endure, the sooner it decays the better. Truly religion is worth more to the masters than either the constable or the hangman if he can keep the children alive while they are being despoiled. Even capitalism cannot grind profits out of a dead child.

Once, in the richest church—one of the richest churches I ever was in—they had raised a great many thousand dollars to finish paying for it and the pastor praised them for it—patted them on the back and made them feel virtuous—and I knew then that I MUST, but I waited till he had finished his sermon and then I went up in front and stood on the steps of the pulpit and told them that in that same city there were so many disinherited that the Y. W. C. A. had to have a policeman to keep order among the horde that applied for relief in the winter. They couldn't help all who came, only

those who were absolutely unable to help themselves. And I asked them—those hypocrites who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers—if they thought that Christ would build such a house for himself while his brothers were suffering so.

I didn't call them hypocrites, but that was because I didn't know that the coal mine owners and cotton mill men belonged to that church. I called them my poor blind brothers and sisters, but I wouldn't have claimed kin with them if I had known as much about them then as I do now.

Yours for the revolution,
MAY BEALS.

HAS ANOTHER LAUGH

Once more the socialist has the laugh on his side. Just as the "reformers" are shaking hands and patting themselves on the back because Roosevelt is going to "regulate the trusts," and he is handing a bunch to the railroad magnates, and we are going to have cheap rates, and the little butcher, and baker, and candlestick maker can take a little summer jaunt with wife and babies, and the days of "exorbitant rates" and "shameful extortion" are a thing of the past—right here a new beast begins to growl, and the "dear public" stops aghast because "organized labor" is protesting against rate legislation, and it has the audacity to say that such interference would bring low wages. And sweating toilers complain that is such an event the earnings of the roads would be decreased, and of course that means that expenses would have to be decreased instead of dividends, and the first easy point to get at that, is to cut wages. There is no getting away from the inevitable logic of the thing. The public looks blue, the trainmen look ominous, and the socialist laughs. He's been laughing for some time, and he's going to laugh as he sees his predictions verified with every turn of the capitalist wheel, and he'll keep on laughing until the silly public knows enough to take its business out of the hands of the barnacle private owner, and then he will sit down and smile contentedly the rest of his natural life.

Bachelors Scored

Individuals Branded for Society's
Shortcomings---Security of
Life Means Comfort.

The Helena Independent has an editorial in which it hurls anathemas at bachelors, and complains bitterly of their increase. All the crimes of the decalogue are heaped on the defenseless heads of those who have refused to take on themselves the responsibilities of heads of families, and inane suggestions are made for meting out punishment to them, presumably for the purpose of forcing them into some sort of a marriage as the lesser of two evils.

When the capitalist press shall have learned what every scientific thinker knows today, that all social phenomena are the result of economic determining causes, the public will not be inflicted with such silly twaddle in regard to what are serious results of existing conditions.

Individual personal considerations no more enter into the question of a decrease in marriages than they do into that of the frightful increase of the army of the unemployed.

Young men are not marrying because of the precariousness of getting a living. Life is too insecure for a man dependent upon others for employment to attempt to establish a home with its constant and increasing expenses. The young clerk or mechanic sees the fate of his fellows who have endeavored to maintain the domestic life. He

sees the trust dismiss the extra clerk, the machine oust the superfluous mechanic. He sees the strike fail, the lowered wage, the reduced standard of life, the sickness with no money to pay doctors and he is warned, and elects to take the chances of life by himself as the safer course.

Nature protests at the thwarting of her purposes, and the horrors of prostitution, disease and outcasts are the result. Capitalism is destroying the home in America, as it has practically done among the French. He is a wise man who demands a secure chance of existence before he undertakes to be responsible for new lives brought into the world.

Under a scientific and rational system of life, under socialism, there would be no scramble for gold in order to get the means of living.

Industry would be so systematized that all would be trained and educated for work, all would have work and plenty of leisure besides, all would have the product of their labor, which would keep them in comfort, and all young people could marry from love and not compulsion, and have homes and no anxiety for the future. Do you think you could do anything to help on the dawn of a better society?

Back to the Land

Cause of Contamination in Contaminated
Cities--Flies Are Hatched
in Carcass.

Congested cities, harboring thousands of homeless poor, who, year after year, drag out a miserable existence—fertile valleys and fruitful plains uninhabited—these are the paradoxes of American civilization.

New York cries out in distress for fresh air and elbow room—Montana's acres and valleys lie with ground untitled. Though meal may be grown for 'a penny a peck and water may be had for nothing'—the poor of the East cling to the fringes of civilization and feed upon the crumbs which fall from the table of wealth.

A man with an axe and a spade can build himself a house and grow enough in two acres to feed a family a year, with pure water, pure air and God's golden sunshine to cheer him at his work, still the poor cling to the stifling city.

Although in a small way, benevolent societies are now endeavoring to grasp the opportunity this paradox presents and endeavoring to relieve distress by establishing colonies. They are trying to lead the slum-dwellers from their squalor to the land of fresh earth and running water. It is a splendid example of practical philanthropy, and the men and women who are behind the movement are worth a million

dreamers. May their tribe increase!—Butte Evening News.

It would be better to say: These are the paradoxes of capitalism, in America, Russia, Japan, Africa, Dahomey or Patagonia. Wherever two or more "civilized" persons are gathered into a social compact will be found "homeless poor, who, year after year, drag out a miserable existence", and, within a stone's throw, vast parks of rich soil dedicated to waste for the pleasure of exploiters—the masters—of labor. Under the co-operative commonwealth the homeless poor, the slum-dwellers, will be led "from their squalor to the land of fresh earth and running water", or they and others, whose energies are wasted or misdirected, will be placed where they will accomplish the most good for all humanity with the least expenditure of labor and in the least time. While the various organizations of Europe and America, who are attempting to alleviate the sufferings of the millions of poor, are deserving of some credit they are to be blamed for this ignorance of the economic cause for the conditions existing. Flies are hatched in a carcass. Capitalistic philanthropy, acting through such agencies, removes only a few of the flies. Socialism—the Co-operative Commonwealth—will remove the carcass—the cause—the breeding place of flies—therefore all the flies.

—ANDREW JACKSON ALDRIDGE.

SENATOR BAILEY GRUESOME JOKER

Senator Bailey is proving himself rather a gruesome joker. In the dismal debate in the senate, as to whether to eulogize or not to eulogize Senator Mitchell, referring to the criminal record of our "most potent, grave, and reverend seniors," he delivers himself of the following homily, cited by the press under the humorous head of "All Honorable Men:"

"You on that side may sometimes look upon us on this side (democratic) as demagogues, and I know that we sometimes look upon you on that side as mere creatures of corporate greed, yet we all, in our sober moments look upon one another as upright, honest men."

"In the last ten years there have been ten indictments of senators, and all of the indictments implying crimes have been committed for money. It is time the senate is testifying to the world that this is no place to come to make money dishonestly."

LET THE BIG THIEVES DISGORGE

I see by the Missoulian that the Hon. Joseph Dixon, M. C., for Montana, has served notice on the committee of agitators at Helena that he is a standpatter on the president's railway rate regulating scheme without any mutual reservations whatever. (Am glad he used that word). Also from the same paper I read that he had introduced a bill for the purpose of forcing civil service employees to settle or be suspended, and finally removed, for failure to do so. Now it would be an innovation if he, in his capacity of reservation promoter, would introduce a measure to compel some or all of those land thieves to disgorge, by turning back to the people the millions of acres they have stolen, so that the class he wishes to force into honest ways would have a chance to own a home, and thereby evade the landlord and also encourage the grocer and butcher to leniency, because of his improved prospects in life. But I suppose Mr. Dixon does not wish to be called a Socialist.

—T. P. CRUMLEY.

WILL SOCIALISM COME IN THE NEXT FIVE OR SIX YEARS?

If the capitalists were clever they would force socialism on the people in the next couple of years. It is generally believed that the capitalist class will force a panic before 1908. The wealthiest man in the United States admits that in case of a panic there will be somewhere in the neighborhood of from five to seven million idle men, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Now, Mr. Capitalist, I think if you were quite shrewd, you would force socialism on the people while they are not prepared for it. If I were a capitalist I would argue with my brother capitalists to force socialism with the new crash. You, Mr. Capitalist, are educating the people to the collective idea through your concentration into a solid body of oppression. You are giving the laboring people too much time to study socialism. Force socialism on the producing class. If you give us four or five years more study in the socialist college which

you are carrying on. John D. advocates putting the idle people to work on public roads.

In the arid states they have already thrown a sop to the working class the way of government ditches. So I say to you, Mr. Capitalist, force the socialist idea quickly before the workers are educated to the point where they can do their own thinking, for if you prolong or retard the process you will lose your job of throwing sop to the workers, for in a few years they will own the jobs themselves. If government roads and ditches are going to be built we socialists want the government to construct them, and not let them out by contract to some private individual, to skin the workers, by working them long hours and then calling it "overtime," as is being done in the city affairs of Livingston.

Now is your chance Mr. Capitalist. Head off Socialism by bringing it too soon.

M. L. BAKER.